

gin of the fore wings in the males of all these species to accommodate the sexual scale-pocket in the medio-submedian interspace is a striking feature. The text, which keeps excellent pace with the plates, has many points of interest and calls attention to some interesting cases of mimicry.

Mr. W. F. Kirby has just published with Van Voorst's successors a synonymic catalogue of dragon-flies living and fossil. It extends to 202 pp. 8vo. They are arranged systematically under families, subfamilies and divisions, the further subdivisions by Selys and others, legions and groups, being ignored. So too all subgenera are regarded as genera. This has at least simplified the author's work, but can hardly be regarded as satisfactory. A number of new generic terms are employed for preoccupied names and in a few cases radical changes occur, as when *Agrion* is made to replace *Calopteryx* (because Latreille had fixed the type as the *Libellula virgo* of Linné) and a new term *Coenagrion* employed for *Agrion*, carrying with it the subfamily name *Coenagrioninae*. Selys strenuously objects to this in the *comptes-rendus* of the Belgian entomological society. About 1800 nominal species are entered in 267 genera, besides a few in the appendix. 102 fossil species are catalogued separately. The work appears to be conscientiously done and will certainly be of as great an assistance to the students of Odonata as that of Lepidoptera, prepared by the same author, is to its votaries.

THE MARCH OF HYPERCHIRIA 10.—I have carefully watched a brood of 10 larvae in their marching, and have found the secret of their regularity. The leader spins a fine thread as he moves, and the larva next in order follows the thread, and spins one himself. If he follows the thread by feeling it at one side, instead of following *ou* it, the thread which is spun by No. 2 lies parallel with that spun by No. 1, and usually each thread will be followed by a larva, when the wedge-shaped "order of march" will result—

No. 1 ahead, No. 2 following just a trifle at one side, No. 3 and No. 4 side by side. No. 3 following the thread of No. 1, and No. 4 that of No. 2; No. 5 will follow No. 3; No. 6 will often feel the two threads and march between them, when No. 7 will follow No. 4, and so the ranks will widen. The thread can be seen plainly with a lens, and the process watched. If a larva loses his way he feels for the thread, and seems able to tell, by its surface, in which direction the procession has gone, always following the right direction after a moment's careful feeling of the thread. *Caroline G. Soule.*

MORE DAMAGE BY WHITE ANTS IN NEW ENGLAND. — At a recent meeting of the Cambridge Entomological Club Mr. S. H. Scudder showed the work of white ants, *Termes flavipes*, on the wooden tubs containing plants at the Botanic Garden. This and some of the culprits were brought to him by Frederick A. Quinn, one of the employes of the Garden, who stated that they had destroyed some of the tree-ferns growing in such tubs. This shows that the white ants are there increasing in numbers and have become a real element of danger, for in 1885 Dr. Hagen reported in the Canadian entomologist (v. 17, 134-135) that "the earth in the hot-houses here in Cambridge is largely infested by white ants, but as far as I know no destruction of plants has been observed." Two years later the speaker pointed out (*ibid.*, v. 19, 218) that geranium cuttings were attacked by white ants in the forcing houses attached to the Mt. Auburn cemetery; but here we find a more serious damage. On visiting the Garden Mr. Scudder was shown by the head gardener, Mr. Cameron, a plant almost completely destroyed in which the traces of their work were very apparent. The plant was *Cyathea insignis*, four or five feet high. One of the same kind had been destroyed before and thrown away. According to Mr. Cameron, the ants seemed to show a preference for the